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**TESTIMONY RE: S. B. 678 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE
COST CONTAINMENT.**

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2009

TO: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Mary Jane Williams, RN, PhD, chairperson, Government Relations
Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut, for Raised Bill 678, An Act Concerning Health Care Cost Containment. Our Association supports this bill which will establish the Connecticut Health Care Cost Containment Authority (the "Authority"). As part of Connecticut's initiatives to reform the health care delivery system and provide better patient outcomes, the Authority will have several purposes including:

- the promotion, planning and designing, developing, assisting, acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining and equipping and furnishing of health care, health care information technology and the health care delivery system and assisting directly or indirectly in the financing of the costs
- developing a community-based health care model to reform the delivery of health care services in the state and finance technology required for implementing a comprehensive chronic disease management program and a wellness and prevention program administered through medical homes.

CNA has consistently supported measures related to health care reform and delivery of care that have prevention and wellness at the core through primary care and that care is based on evidence and best practices which lead to better patient outcomes.

Chronic disease management, case management services and care coordination are all best practices that would be utilized in the Authority's model.

With the development of such a model, we would recommend that nursing be represented on the Authority for the following reasons:

- represent the largest group of health care providers;
- practice in all health care settings, as consultants to business and industry, as primary providers of health care services, as educators and researchers, as legislators and regulators, and as the constant in disease management and prevention; and
- offer a patient, family and community perspective about care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and our recommendation that Connecticut Nurses' Association, as the professional organization for registered nurses is recommended for a seat on the Authority. We support this bill which establishes the Authority that would be charged with development of a model that is consistent with best practices that will lead to better patient outcomes.